



Family Support Guidelines (Rehearsals and Get In Week)

Cast members (or indeed anyone involved in show production) who care for children are responsible for making their own child care arrangements to enable them to attend rehearsals, during “get-in” week and during the show. However, occasionally child care plans might fall through and rather than miss a rehearsal, the parent may suggest bringing their child(ren) to a specific rehearsal. If the Directors agrees (because rescheduling isn't possible) the following guidelines should be followed:

- a. The parent/carer should record on the sign in sheet that their child/children is/are accompanying them. (in the event of fire the sign in sheet will be used to check who might still be in the building)
- b. The child(ren) concerned are the responsibility of their parent/carer and should remain in the rehearsal room with them at all times. Should childcare needs arise during Get In Week, the child/children should be accommodated in the theatre seating area, but should not leave the theatre seating area without their parent/s /carers supervision.
- c. Should the child(ren) need to go to the bathroom, their parent/carer needs to accompany them.
- d. Should the parent/carer need to leave the rehearsal room for a brief while, the child/children should either accompany them, or they can stay in the rehearsal room provided at least two SLT members, ie the Director, AD and/or cast members are present.
- e. It is recommended that the parent/carer ensure their child(ren) can entertain themselves quietly whilst the rehearsal is going on, and also bring any snacks, drinks they might need. Ensuring all food is disposed of.

Directors are encouraged to plan that rehearsal in such a way so scenes involving the parent/carer are scheduled earlier in the rehearsal to minimise the time the children are present. Particularly important if the rehearsal is in the evening and the children have school the following day.

When a child is present at a rehearsal, cast members may need to be reminded to moderate their language and behaviour, including line running that involves language inappropriate for the child to hear. More appropriate words should be substituted for that rehearsal.

Whilst SLT aims to be supportive of parents/carers with childcare responsibilities, a child's presence in a rehearsal room does have an impact on other cast members, and it shouldn't be assumed that everyone will feel comfortable with a child present. It should therefore not become the norm that a child (children) of a cast member, regularly attend rehearsals.

During show week, the cast/crew member is responsible for making alternative arrangements outside of SLT.